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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,792	02/14/2001	Keiji Sakata	36856.449	9594
7590	10/05/2004		EXAMINER	
Keating & Bennett LLP Suite 312 10400 Eaton Place Fairfax, VA 22030				NGUYEN, TUYEN T
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2832

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/782,792	SAKATA, KEIJI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TUYEN T NGUYEN	2832	<i>DW</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meadors et al. [US 6,246,205] in view of Tashiro et al. [US 5,515,022].

Meadors et al. discloses a multilayer inductor (20) comprising:

- a plurality of stacked magnetic layers (32a.-32d);
- through-holes (see figure 2) formed in the stacked magnetic layers;
- a plurality of coil conductor patterns (36, 38, 52 and 56);
- non-magnetic element (70) disposed in the vicinity of the coil conductor patterns in at least one of the magnetic layers;

- external electrodes (24, 26) being provided at end surfaces of the multilayer inductor; and

- lead-out portions (40, 57) which are connected to the external electrodes.

Meadors et al. discloses the instant claimed invention except for the area of a projected plane of a circuit of each coil conductor pattern on a main surface of respective ones of the plurality of magnetic layers is in a range from about 35% to about 75% of the area of the main surface of the respective ones of the plurality of magnetic layers.

Tashiro et al. discloses a multilayered inductor (figure 3) comprising :

- a plurality of stacked magnetic layers (21, 22, 23);
- a plurality of coil conductor patterns (31, 32), wherein the area of a projected plane of a circuit of each coil conductor pattern on a main surface of respective ones of the plurality of magnetic layers is in a range from about 35% to about 75% of the area of the main surface of the respective ones of the plurality of magnetic layers (figure 3); and

- via connector (35) connecting the plurality of coil conductor patterns together.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the conductor pattern design of Tashiro et al. in Meadors et al. for the purpose of improving usage of the area of the conductive material and minimizing leakage inductance.

Regarding claim 5, the specific shape of the magnetic layers would have been an obvious design consideration based on the intended application use.

Regarding claim 7, Meadors et al, discloses an air gap (space) or cavity disposed inside one of the plurality of coil conductor patterns (figure 2)

Regarding claims 6 and 8-10, the specific shape and width of the conductor pattern would have been an obvious design consideration for the purpose of facilitating manufacturing and enhancing the inductance.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUYEN T NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-1996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ELVIN ENAD can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTN *TTN*

Tuyen T. Nguyen